



**Minutes of the October 13, 2004 Meeting of the
Commission on Men's Health
1:00 p.m. - Atlanta, Georgia**

Members Attending:

William M. Harper, M.D., Chairman
Charles Braucher, Ph.D.
Teresa Clark, M.D.
Representative Carl Von Epps
Stuart Fors, Ed.D.
M. Ramzy Hajmurad, M.D.
Senator Don Thomas
James W. Couch, Chief, Health Improvement Programs, DCH

Members Absent:

James Bennett, M.D.
Representative Buddy Childers, Vice-Chairman
Ecleamus Ricks, M.P.H. (Medical Leave)

The Georgia Commission on Men's Health (CMH) held its quarterly meeting on October 13, 2004, at the Department of Community Health (DCH) in Atlanta, Georgia. Chairman Harper presided over the meeting and called it to order at 1:10 p.m. The Board reviewed the Minutes of the July 21, 2004. With minor changes, the Minutes were UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED. A copy of the Agenda and List of Attendees are attached hereto and made official parts of these Minutes as Attachments #1 and #2.

Before Chairman Harper gave his update on the upcoming Men's Health Symposium, he asked Mr. Couch to give the Executive Director's Report. Mr. Couch began by giving updates on several items. The first item is the status of the DCH budget. He discussed the various challenges and cuts in programs the Department is faced with in order to meet the FY'2006 budget. Also, he informed everyone that there is still talk of combining the Health Improvement Programs (Offices of Women's Health, Minority Health and Men's Health). He will continue to update the members as he is updated. He also mentioned that more details on the budget can be found on DCH's website.

Mr. Couch mentioned the proposed budget for Men's Health for 2005 is only \$15,000.00. He recommended that the Commission look to outside agencies, organizations, etc. as resources for funding.

Dr. Harper asked Commission Members to write Commissioner Tim Burgess asking him to release the position of Executive Director for the Commission on Men's Health. He stated that it is important to have someone in that position particularly to focus on coordinating the 2nd Annual Statewide Men's Health Symposium scheduled for June 2005. Dr. Harper informed the attendees that the 19 Public

Health Districts, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Human Resources, will partner with the Commission in an effort to make it a statewide initiative. He is asking Commission members to make contact with the District Director in their area to start planning the June 2005 event. This will include securing a site for their men's health event, determining a point person or liaison for that public health district, identifying local partners that may be involved and planning activities, etc. Dr. Harper would like to have a planning meeting on January 19, 2005, via satellite, that will include all district directors or their liaisons, CMH Collaborative Partners and the members of the Commission. Dr. Harper asked Lynn Christian if she would mail the "MHN HealthZone Screening Planner (toolkit), which was distributed at the 1st Annual Men's Health Symposium, to all District Directors and/or their established liaisons so that they would have some sort of planning guide for their district to assist them with planning their events.

Dr. Braucher asked the Commission where will the funding resources come from to help the districts with their event. Dr. Harper stated that we are in the process of asking various companies and/or pharmaceuticals, etc. to contribute towards this event. The plan is to distribute some of these funds to the districts.

Dr. Bonhomme gave an update on the CHAMPS health fair that was on September 18, 2004. The Civic Center was used this year as opposed to the Loudermilk Center. The computer system utilized for this event enabled CHAMPS administrators to get exact data figures for purposes of follow-up, effectiveness, etc. The group of participants were much more diverse this year with an increase in the Latino population and the Asian American community. However, Dr. Bonhomme did say that the language barrier contributed to the numbers of various minorities that attended. He also considers this event to be the most successful CHAMPS to date.

Dr. Harper presented a draft logo to Commission members that would represent the men's health symposium. Representative Epps suggested that we use the letters MEN and not necessarily use it as an acronym. Commission members agreed. Representative Carl Von Epps MADE THE MOTION to use the term "MEN" for the Commission on Men's Health annual statewide men's health symposium. Chairman Harper SECONDED THE MOTION. The MOTION was UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED AND ADOPTED.

Dr. Harper wanted to get the Commission's opinion on having a 2004 Holiday Affair and wanted to do something different this year by expanding this year's invitation list to include the CMH collaborative partners. Commission members agreed. Dr. Harper will work out the details. Members will be notified with the results.

Dr. Harper opened the floor for public comment.

Dr. Bonhomme suggested that because other states are creating men's health commissions, Georgia should look into having a coalition of men's health commissions in order to strengthen Georgia's Commission and involve all state commissions in an attempt to promote a national effort to strengthen the men's health agenda.

Commission members decided to have the next Commission on Men's Health meeting on January 26, 2005, the week following the January 19, 2005 CMH Statewide Men's Health Initiative Planning meeting.

The Commission changed the proposed June men's health day symposium from June 16, 2005 to Saturday, June 18, 2005.

Also, Dr. Harper suggested that the members of the Commission send a letter to Georgia Legislatures to inform them about the Commission, its purpose and what the Commission is doing in order to bring awareness to the Commission's activities. He feels it would be of benefit to the Commission and possibly could affect the CMH budget.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.